



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Paula J. Hammond, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

Transportation Building
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504-7300
360-705-7000
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov

April 27, 2009

The Honorable Adam Smith
2402 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

The Washington Department of Transportation supports and submits a request for \$160,000,000 in High Priority Project funding in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization legislation for:

- **SR 167, Tacoma to Puyallup – New Freeway**

We would like to provide you with the following additional details about this project.

1. Project merits: This freeway segment is a critical missing link in the state's highway network and will provide a direct connection from East Pierce County to downtown Tacoma. This project would complete the freeway from I-5 in Tacoma to I-405 in Renton, completing the original vision as planned in the 1960's. The Port of Tacoma generates significant truck volumes for moving goods to and from distribution centers and warehouses in Fife, Puyallup, Sumner, Kent, and Auburn. These trucks currently use local roads which are not designed for these large, heavy vehicles, which creates congestion, decreases safety due to limited sight distance, and degrades the local infrastructure. This project will move regional traffic and truck traffic onto the new freeway which will decrease congestion on the local streets, improve safety, and move freight faster and more economically. This project will also enhance surface water quality and improve stream habitat in two watersheds that feed into Commencement Bay.

2. Public engagement: This project has gone through an extensive public involvement process due to the fact that the Environmental Impact Statement was begun in 1990 and was just completed in October 2007. In addition, the project sends out a quarterly email update to over 500 interested parties. The project has, and continues to be present at several of the local community events such as the Puyallup Farmer's market and the Fife Harvest Festival. The web page is updated monthly and we also have established a 1-800 number for the public to call and get further information.

3. Additional sources of funding to complete this project: This project has received \$146.4 million in state funds, \$13 million in federal funds, and \$484,792 in local funds.

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4. How this request meets the 80% cost requirement: The estimate to complete the right of way acquisition along the corridor is \$325 million and the project has \$125 million in current right of way funding. If this request for \$200 million is approved, this would fully fund the right of way acquisition to preserve the project corridor.

If you have any questions about this project please contact me, or Larry Ehl at (360) 705-7507.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Hammond", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Paula Hammond
Secretary of Transportation

PH:

cc: Larry Ehl, WSDOT



OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN DAVE REICHERT (WA-08)

CONGRESSIONAL SITE VISIT CERTIFICATION

In the interests of accountability and transparency, we require that either the Congressman or a member of the Congressman's professional staff visit each project site requesting federal funding. This will enable our office to more thoroughly assess the merits of each project and ensure that limited taxpayer funds are invested wisely.

Upon completion of the congressional site visit, please complete this form and have a representative from the organization (not a representative from a lobbying firm) sign it. The Congressional Staff Member visiting the site will be responsible for collecting the form at the time of the visit.

I hereby certify that on MAY 12, 2009 Congressman Dave Reichert/a professional staff member from Congressman Dave Reichert's office visited our organization/project for the purposes of reviewing our request for federal funding.

PROJECT NAME: SR 167, TACOMA TO PUYALLUP

DATE OF CONGRESSIONAL VISIT: MAY 12, 2009

NAME OF PERSON CERTIFYING: LARRY EHL

TITLE OF PERSON CERTIFYING: FEDERAL RELATIONS MANAGER

LEGAL NAME OF ENTITY MAKING REQUEST: WASH. STATE D.O.T

LEGAL ADDRESS OF ENTITY MAKING REQUEST: 310 MARCE PARK AVENUE
OLYMPIA 98504

SIGNATURE: [Signature] DATE: MAY 12, 2009

MEMBER/CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER: Thomas Young

SIGNATURE: [Signature] DATE: 5.12.2009